**Context Clues**

Definition Clue

The definition of the word is included in the sentence or passage.

1. When I grow up, I want to be an ICHTHYOLOGIST, a person who

studies fish.

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1. The Indian paused, looking sadly at the dry river called an ARROYO.

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Example Clue

Examples of the unknown word are included in the sentence or passage.

1. The fat man CHORTLED at the joke, chuckling and snorting loudly.

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1. Several rules of ETIQUETTE are commonplace, including saying “please” and “thank you”.

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1. The FEISTY child, who was very active and jittery, would not sit quietly in his chair.

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Synonym Clue

A word or phrase with the same meaning as the unknown word is included in the sentence or passage.

A. The ring was guaranteed to be GENUINE—real diamonds and rubies.

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1. The floor was IMMACULATE, but with the children home on a rainy

day, there was no way for it to stay spotless.

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Antonym Clue

The opposite meaning of the unknown word is included in the passage and often signaled by a conjunction (but, while, however).

1. My grandmother shops for RELICS from her childhood, while I

prefer something new.

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1. The FLAMBOYANT costumes were very noticeable next to the drab,

black robes of the choir.

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Series Clue

The unknown word is included in a series of known words in the sentence or passage.

1. The kite flew out of control, twisting, churning, and PLUMMETING to the

earth.

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1. The surface of the moon was rocky, CRAGGY, and mountainous.

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Cause-Effect Clue

Either the cause or the effect of the unknown word is included in the sentence or passage.

1. A curtain of deep lilac swept across the lake OBSCURING the sight of

the mountain in the darkness.

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1. The chameleon is CAMOUFLAGED in the branches because it turns

the color of its surroundings and does not move.

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Experience Clue

The reader’s previous experience provides aid in defining the unknown word.

1. A mirror image of the lovely mountain hung INVERTED in the lake,

for the surface was like glass.

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1. As the plane flew higher, the size of the city below began to

DIMINISH before Paul’s eyes.

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General Sense of the Passage Clue

The meaning of the unknown word can be inferred from the general context of the sentence or passage.

1. Alan PERSISTED in bouncing the ball in the house even after I asked

him not to.

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1. After Mrs. Parson’s ENLIGHTENING talk, we felt we had learned a

great deal about whales.

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